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August 13, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
ATTN: Video Services Division

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Note: Exempt From Filing Fees

Re: Notification of Off-Air Status
NCE Station WOUC-DT, Cambridge, OH (FIN: 50141)
FRN: 0005-0127-29

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Ohio University ("University"), and pursuant to Section 73.561(d) of the Commission's Rules, we hereby notify the FCC of the temporary off-air status of noncommercial educational digital television station WOUC-DT, Cambridge, Ohio.

As of August 5, 2004, Station WOUC-DT was forced to cease operations following the catastrophic failure of its new transmitting antenna system. Pursuant to the construction permits in FCC File Nos. BPET-20010321ABH and BPEDT-20000407ACF, the University recently installed a new dual-transmitting antenna for analog station WOUC-TV and digital station WOUC-DT. The University previously notified the FCC by letter of the commencement of program tests for each facility and filed license to cover applications for WOUC-TV and WOUC-DT in FCC File Nos. BLET-20040714ABH and BLEDT-20040805AAG, respectively.

Although the antenna had functioned properly for approximately one month while transmitting only the analog signal, it burned up within itself shortly after commencing full power operation of the digital signal with full-time DTV program delivery. Accordingly, tower crews and field crews from the antenna manufacturer have been investigating the cause of the custom-built antenna's malfunctions, and the antenna will need to be removed from the tower and shipped back to the manufacturer in Maine for further investigation and repair or replacement. Based on early photographic evidence of the problems, the manufacturer has advised that the problem may have been caused by the electrical/mechanical breakdown of one of the antenna bays, and that repairs will take at least several weeks.

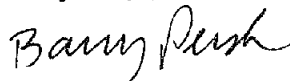
The University is currently exploring possibilities for temporary operation of Station WOUC-DT from the current antenna tower site while the antenna repairs are taking place, and

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
August 13, 2004
Page 2

the antenna manufacturer is expected to supply a transmitting antenna for that purpose. As the plans for the temporary, emergency operation are finalized, the University will notify the FCC and request Special Temporary Authority for the operation (or for extended off-air status), as necessary.

The University is a noncommercial educational licensee and operates WOUC-TV/DT on a noncommercial educational basis. Moreover, the University qualifies as a governmental entity. The University is therefore exempt from FCC filing and regulatory fee requirements, pursuant to Sections 1.1114 and 1.1162 of the Commission's Rules, and is exempt from the Anti-Drug Abuse Act certification requirements pursuant to Section 1.2002(c) of the Rules. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, kindly contact this office.

Very truly yours,



Barry S. Persh
Counsel for Ohio University